

HOUSE RESOLUTION 255

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bea's Restaurant upon its sixtieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those fine dining establishments that serve the gastronomical needs of our citizens, while also delighting their taste buds; and;

WHEREAS, Bea's Restaurant in Chattanooga is one such outstanding restaurant that has attracted a diverse and loyal clientele by providing delicious cuisine and attentive service to its many loyal patrons for sixty years; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional restaurant first opened its doors in 1950 and has served the residents of Chattanooga for six decades; and

WHEREAS, the late Bill and Beatrice Steele opened Bea's Restaurant in Chattanooga in 1950 as a small establishment, having just one dining room with a handful of tables and an apartment on the second floor where the Steeles lived; and

WHEREAS, from these humble beginnings, Bea's Restaurant has grown and prospered over the past sixty years by serving outstanding food with fellowship and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, when Bea's first opened, it was patronized frequently by plant workers, who needed to get in and out quickly on their lunch breaks; accommodating that need, Mr. and Mrs. Steele installed the restaurant's signature lazy Susans; and

WHEREAS, those lazy Susans still offer the same fried chicken, sweet tea, and other Southern favorites, many of which are prepared from Mrs. Steele's original recipes; and

WHEREAS, though prices for the exquisite cuisine at Bea's restaurant have risen since the days when seventy-five cents bought an all-you-can-eat meal, the restaurant has stayed in

the family; Bernice and H.L. Bradshaw, the Steeles' daughter and son-in-law, took over after Mr. and Mrs. Steele retired; and

WHEREAS, now a fourth-generation business, Bea's is currently run by Doug Bradshaw, the Steeles' grandson, along with his son Dusty, his brother Mike, and Mike's sons Stacey and Bryan; and

WHEREAS, through the generations, the Steele and Bradshaw families, utilizing their determination and strong work ethic, have built an excellent reputation for fine Southern food and down-home hospitality, helping to create the iconic nature of Bea's Restaurant; and

WHEREAS, with its dishes prepared from scratch Wednesdays through Sundays beginning at 5:00 in the morning, Bea's Restaurant has long been a gathering place for the residents of Chattanooga, and its doors are always open to anyone who is hungry; and

WHEREAS, during its sixty years of existence, Bea's Restaurant has been the scene of many first dates, work lunches, and family dinners throughout its illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding success and stellar reputation that Bea's Restaurant has attained would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Steele and Bradshaw families and loyal staff members, who represent some of the finest restaurant industry minds in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bea's Restaurant always serves its food with a side order of friendship and fond memories for every person who enters the eatery; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Chattanooga greatly appreciate the valuable contribution that the Steele and Bradshaw families and their staff are making to the dining experience in their community and have honored Bea's Restaurant with their patronage over the many decades; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the owners, staff, and management of Bea's Restaurant upon its sixtieth anniversary, applaud them for their delectable meals and exemplary customer service, and wish them all the best in their future culinary endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.